



UPPER COLORADO RIVER

FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

BLM-NORTHWEST DISTRICT

USFS-WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

NPS-COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

INTERAGENCY



News Release
For Immediate Release

White River National Forest
900 Grand Avenue
Glenwood Springs, CO 81603

Contact: Kate Jerman 970-945-3271 or Curtis Keetch, 970-366-0669

Update on Lost Solar Fire in the Flat Tops Wilderness

Meeker, Colo. – Sept. 7, 2016 - The Lost Solar Fire, burning on the Blanco Ranger District in the Flat Tops Wilderness, has grown in acreage over the past two days due to weather and conditions. The Lost Solar Fire is currently estimated at 2,024 acres.

The fire has been burning since Aug. 8. Due to the fire's remote location in Wilderness and its natural ignition, the District and local fire personnel from the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR) are managing the fire with a confine and contain strategy. This management strategy will allow crews to monitor the fire from a safe distance and allow the fire to take its natural course within a pre-identified management boundary.

Crews have pre-identified a management area around the fire utilizing natural barriers such as rock formations and cliffs, streams and natural fire breaks. The fire is currently burning well within this management area and will be allowed to take its natural course and provide benefits to the ecosystem.

Long-term benefits of the Lost Solar Fire include clearing of decadent undergrowth and the rejuvenation new, nutrient-laden forage to improve big game habitat.

"The fire is progressing pretty much as we expected," stated Curtis Keetch, Blanco District Ranger. "This fire will benefit big game habitat in the long run by providing new forage and growth."

Smoke is visible from Garfield, Eagle and Rio Blanco Counties. There are no structures threatened. There is currently a Public Safety Closure Order of Lost Solar Trail #1828 and surrounding areas. Hunters and recreationists are advised to check in at the Ranger Station in Meeker before recreating in the vicinity of the fire. If a member of the public makes contact with a firefighter please listen to their direction for safety.

The fire is burning northwards into the Lost Solar Drainage in Wilderness. Currently one crew, (approximately 10 firefighters) is monitoring the fire from the ground and crews are actively monitoring the fire from the air. Additional resources are being considered based on current behavior and expected fire weather.

For more information contact the Blanco Ranger Station at 970-878-4039 or visit the office at 220 East Market Street Meeker, CO 81641.

###